

THE FARMER'S NEW YEAR.

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD BEGINNING IN FARM WORK.

A Timely Article from an Authoritative Source—A Glance at the Past, with Sound Suggestions for the Future.

(From the Southern Cultivator.)
Notwithstanding failures and disappointments of the year just closed, and in view of the promises that "seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and night, shall not cease" let every one apply himself with new hope, redoubled energy and unflinching zeal to the duties of the New Year—1888!

REVIEW OF THE PAST.

New Year's is the traditional time for making new resolutions. It is a convenient time to "turn over a new leaf," as it is commonly expressed. In order to determine wisely and clearly his plans and purposes for the year just entered, each farmer should look back on the past year and compare the results of his twelve months' work with the plans, purposes and expectations with which he began operations last January. He should wisely generalize upon his successes and failures, and make a new campaign without reference to the conditions, methods and movements of previous campaigns which brought victory and success, or led to disaster and failure. Experience is said to be a "dear school," but it is a very valuable school. Patrick Henry said, in reference to the pending troubles of colonies with the British Government, that he had but one lamp by which his feet were guided—"the lamp of experience," that of experience is a safe guide. Let the whole course of last year's plans and work, the conditions, circumstances and seasons, be recalled, as far as may be. Trace success or failure to their causes. Note the effect of changes from previous methods. Go back in memory to former years; extract from the experience of past history as a farmer all the excellencies, and reject all the blemishes. It is only by so doing that we can profit by the lessons of the past.

THE PRESENT CONDITION.

It ought to be no difficult matter for a farmer to compare his condition and circumstances now with his condition one year ago. Still, we fear there are many farmers who cannot say certainly, because they do not know whether they are better or worse off—whether on the whole they have advanced or retrograded. This ought not to be, and would not if they would acquire the habit of keeping some sort of accounts of farm operations. But every farmer knows whether his general condition is prosperous and satisfactory. Much has been said and written of late about the general condition of Southern agriculture, and intelligent men hold precisely opposite opinions as to whether, as a class, we are growing poorer or richer. The question may never be determined, and it determined little can be done to ameliorate the condition of agriculture by concerted or co-operative action so far as the actual management of our farms—our system of farming—is concerned. Co-operation among farmers has often been attempted, but has never achieved any decided success. It is impracticable to control the operations of individual farmers by any form of association or co-operative pledges. There are too many of them; they are too widely separated; they cannot meet in mass conventions; their circumstances and surroundings are too varied and diverse. Let agricultural conventions and farmers' congresses meet and discuss and resolve and advise, and let the thought and action be directed to the exchange of experiences, suggestions of improved methods, and the social intercourse be beneficial and helpful. The chief benefit, however, to be expected of these representative assemblies is the moulding of public opinion and the giving expression to the demands of the great agricultural classes of the country for equal and fair legislation, the abolition of unjust discriminations, and the establishment of schools of agriculture, experiment stations, departments of agriculture and the like, for the development and protection and advancement of agriculture.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Each farmer must determine for himself, with all the lights before him, what he may and will do for himself. Let him resolve that whatever others may do, he will think for himself. Let him, in detail, that is indicated by experience, observation and careful study. Let him not rely upon what others may say, or what Granges and Alliances may resolve. If every farmer would pursue this course there would result at once the beginning of an independent, self-reliant individuality, and a new era, which in benefiting each individual adopting such a system, will be the advancement and upbuilding of the aggregate of all such individuals. This must be the basis of our improvement and progress.

TAKING STOCK.

Every farmer ought to "take stock," as the merchants express it, at least once a year. Note down in a diary or account book the number, condition and value of stock of all kinds, the amount and value of supplies of food, the value of machinery and implements. Also take account of the yield of last year's crops, the money returns for the same, the amount he owes and what is owing him. Open a cash account and put down the outgoes and the incomes. If compelled to buy supplies or incur debts of any kind, borrow the money if possible and pay as you go. Do not put the keeping of accounts entirely in the hands of your merchant, if you will run an account, but keep a pass-book and require every bill of purchase to be entered.

MAKING LABOR CONTRACTS.

In making engagements for labor it should be remembered that, in the long run, nothing is gained by securing laborers at prices below the possibility of honest living. Better give liberal wages and then insist, by personal presence and close supervision, on honest, faithful compliance. Laborers must live,

and they will live—honestly or otherwise.

PLOWING—TERRACING.

In our climate, as a general rule and so far as the desired disintegration and pulverization of the soil is concerned, the later the breaking up before planting the better. Our plan, heavy clay soils, if plowed very early, will soon run together by the heavy rains of the early months of the year, and be in but little better condition when planting time arrives than if not. But on every farm there are fields of stubble lands, or fields covered with grass and weeds that should be plowed at once. Crab and crow-foot grass if plowed under early and not covered too deep, will rot and benefit the soil and the crop. If deferred until just before planting it will be much better to turn it under. At this late stage the grass has been covered by a heavy coating of soil, and the loss by burning will amount to little in comparison with the greatly improved condition of the plowed soil. Some experienced farmers said that if it were practicable to do so he would prefer, as a general rule, to plow all his land the day before planting.

In view of the probable bad weather, amounting sometimes to a entire month when a plow cannot run at all, without greater injury than possible benefit, it is well to commence plowing early in January, or even before, as already indicated. Our own rule is to keep the work animals busy doing the hauling of logs, fire-wood, litter for stables and stalls, materials for composting etc., so that plowing may be done when the ground is in the best condition. Deep furrows or inversion of ordinary soils is not the best practice. Subsoiling is of doubtful profit on old and worn soils unless well manured.

The general experience is in favor of terracing as compared with hillside plowing, and terracing is certainly not already run they may be quickly marked out ahead of plows by the careful use of a line. An instrument that depends upon a spirit-level for its adjustment is much more accurate and reliable, and will give better results in the end. The rule is to leave the terrace at such a distance that each will be three feet in the perpendicular height above the next below. A good sward, or reliable hillside plow, is very desirable, though not indispensable, in throwing up the foundation of the terrace. Perfectly level lines at the start, and careful strengthening of the weak places by the use of hoed or shovels, will assure the final stability of the terrace banks. Breaks are apt to occur from very heavy rains during the first year, but by prompt repairs and occasional changes of location, the system may become perfectly established and prove a great protection in the course of a few years at most.

FENCING.

There are still many large sections of even entire States where farmers have not acquired (and content to do so) the long strings of fences for the protection of crops against stock. The time is rapidly approaching when the so-called "stock law" will be generally adopted, and the farmers of the future will wonder why their fathers ever submitted to the combing, muzzling and expensiveness of fencing against stock. In the meantime, however, fences must be kept up where the old law prevails, and the waste and destruction of timber must go on until the supply becomes unequal to the demand. Now is the best time to do the work. The timber splits more easily, and such heavy work is more agreeable in cold weather.

MAKING MANURE AND COMPOST.

Where labor is abundant and costs but little, the old-time practice of hauling leaves and straw from the woods near by and filling the stalls and stables is good. Farmers generally appreciate the great advantages of composting. The truth is one of the chief advantages of composting is that it involves the necessity for collecting the crude materials, and then otherwise going to waste, and incorporating them into the heap. If the same materials that are available for composting be collected and distributed separately in the soil no great advantages would appear in composting them if the cost of hauling be justly estimated. In putting up a compost heap, the proportion of crude horse manure, such as cotton seed, stable manure, scrapings, etc., to the purchased elements—phosphate of lime and potash salts—is of no special importance. These various materials vary so much in degree of concentration and practical manual value that it would be impossible to make a rule that will always apply. Let the farmers of a neighborhood club together and buy acid phosphate and potash salt, exchange cotton seed for cotton seed meal when good terms are offered, each farmer buying as much as he may judiciously. Let the acid phosphate be in proportion of one hundred pounds of cotton seed and one hundred pounds of kainit, and allow, say two hundred pounds of the mixture per acre. Now mix them with the crude materials according to available quantity and when ready for use distribute according to the proportion suggested, or as to go over the entire area to be cultivated.

It should be remembered that as a principle it does not pay the best to manure a few acres very heavily and leave the main expanse of the farm with little or no manure. A more equal and impartial distribution will bring the larger aggregate of final yields and profits. Intensive farming, as a system, excludes entirely the cultivation of unprofitable and unproductive acres. But more on this subject after awhile.

PIANOS AND ORGANS.

We are prepared to sell Pianos and Organs of the best make at factory prices for Cash or easy Installments. Pianos from \$210 up; Organs from \$24 up. The verdict of the people is that they can save the freight and twenty-five percent, by buying of us. Instruments delivered to any depot on fifteen days' trial. We pay freight both ways if not satisfactory. Order and test in your own homes. Respectfully,
N. W. TRUMP,
Columbia, S. C.

Master Workman Powderly is slowly improving.

INFESTED WITH BEARS.

The Inhabitants of Central Pennsylvania Alarmed.

(Harrisburg Special to Chicago Herald.)
According to the accounts of hunters, black bears were never so numerous and bold in Central Pennsylvania as they are this fall. In Center county they have walked boldly into villages, and one was killed the other day on a farm within eight miles of Bellefonte, the county seat and home of Governor Carlisle. In Franklin county, in the North fields in which numbers during the hunting season just ended that great loss sustained by the farmers in corn destroyed and carried away by the bears. Over the line, in Fulton county, especially in Tod township, more than one farmer has been robbed of his winter's pork by marauding bears. In Cumberland county, near the Perry county line, many bears have been seen this month, and three killed.

The other day an immense bear was seen entering the village of Millsburg, Center county, having come down from a neighborly about eight miles, and walked up the middle of the main street. People who were in the street got quickly out of it. Horses started and tugged at their harnesses, but the bear kept on its way. Before it had gone far a number of dogs got wind of it, and appeared upon the scene. The bear turned and dashed through A. T. Boggs' front picket fence, and took a short cut out of town for the woods. There was no one in Millsburg anxious to go bear hunting, and the bear led the dogs a long chase, and returned to the mountain.

Two other bears that tried the brave and independent act of William Farmer, near the town of Millsburg, Farmer and his wife were returning home from a neighborly about eight miles, and walked up the middle of the main street. People who were in the street got quickly out of it. Horses started and tugged at their harnesses, but the bear kept on its way. Before it had gone far a number of dogs got wind of it, and appeared upon the scene. The bear turned and dashed through A. T. Boggs' front picket fence, and took a short cut out of town for the woods. There was no one in Millsburg anxious to go bear hunting, and the bear led the dogs a long chase, and returned to the mountain.

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The Gentzell farm is two miles south of Bellefonte, at the foot of Bald Eagle Mountain. A few days ago John Gentzell, who owns the farm, was told by a neighbor that a big bear was in his corn field stripping the shocks and carrying away generally. Farmer Gentzell is no hunter, but keeps gun and traps, and with him, he went to his corn field, which was in sight of his barn, to see if there really was a bear there husking his crop. Sure enough an enormous black fellow stood at one end of the shocks, scattering the stalks about and stripping off the ears. Gentzell gave him one charge from his rifle, but the bear jumped into the air and fell back flat on the ground. The farmer supposed he had killed his game, but while he was loading his gun, the bear jumped up and slouched away and disappeared in the corn shocks. Gentzell followed him, expecting every moment to come upon his head, but he was surprised to discover him at the other end of the field working away at another shock of corn as if nothing had happened.

Gentzell then shouted to his brother Henry, who was at work in another field, and while Henry was on his way to join him John put two more bullets into the bear. He then made for the mountains, limping along on three legs. The brothers followed him, and a fourth shot was fired into him. This did not finish the tough old customer, and now thoroughly aroused, he turned on his pursuers, and rushed upon Henry Gentzell in such a furious charge that the farmer was prostrate on the ground with the bear pawing and cussing at his legs, before he knew what had happened. It was lucky for Gentzell that his brother was there, for the bear would have torn him to pieces in a minute more. The brother sprang forward, and with one blow of the heavy rifle, broke the bear's back, and the fierce brute fell over and died. The flesh was taken from Henry Gentzell's leg from the knee down. The bear was one of the biggest ones ever killed in the county, weighing between three hundred and four hundred pounds.

Three boys were hunting rabbits on Tuesday near Cowan's Gap, in Franklin county. They started a rabbit, and it ran into a corn shock. One of the boys went to the shock to kick it and scare the rabbit out, while the two others stood ready to shoot it. The rabbit jumped out of one side, but neither boy shot it, for on the other side a bear tumbled out and surveyed the youthful hunters in astonishment. The rabbit got away, and so did the boys. The bear was afterwards killed in the same field by a farmer named Wagner.

An Italian scissor-grinder had a dispute with Mr. T. D. Mitchell, Orangeburg, a few days ago, about the pay for sharpening a knife. The Italian became enraged and fired a pistol at Mr. Mitchell. The ball barely missed his head. The Italian, as soon as he fired, fled, and has not since been seen.

HE WAS CURED BY FAITH.

THE VERY REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE OF A CHICAGO CLERGYMAN.

(Chicago Letter to the New York Herald.)
The Rev. Dr. John Williamson is one of the best known clergymen in Chicago, having served as a pastor in Methodist churches here for fourteen years. He is a sensible, level-headed man, too, and not given to isms. Yet he has a story to tell which is out of the ordinary way. It borders upon the marvelous.

At a recent meeting of the Methodist ministers Dr. Williamson related his experience with the faith cure. He was very sick, but he didn't go to a doctor. He took his trouble direct to God, he said, and was cured. He took no medicine, for God cured him without it.

His statement naturally created a sensation among the other preachers, and knowing the speakers as well as they did they could not doubt his word. Dr. Williamson is not given to sensationalism in the pulpit or elsewhere, and his earnest, impressive manner carried conviction with it.

Dr. Williamson said that health came to him after a "sudden and indescribable communion with God," during which he was assured that he would be restored. He believed, and he had his reward.

The Herald correspondent waited on the clergyman and asked him to give his experience. Dr. Williamson is a man forty-seven years of age, strongly built, but wearing traces of hard work upon his features. His life has not been particularly sedentary, though he has replied, "but you are welcome to it as far as it goes. I feel assured that I was cured in consequence of my prayers for myself and my communion with Him. My attempt was an attempt at faith, and my liver was also affected, and I was in a bad way generally. I knew also that I was overworked, and sometimes felt that, perhaps, I might never be able to regulate work in my pulpit again."

"I consulted some of the best physicians in Chicago and they advised me to rest, but I was not able to do so. I knew that I was overworked, and sometimes felt that, perhaps, I might never be able to regulate work in my pulpit again."

"I had something definite to ask for; I was in a bad way generally. I knew also that I was overworked, and sometimes felt that, perhaps, I might never be able to regulate work in my pulpit again."

"You feel that your restoration to health was the direct result of prayer?"
"I had something definite to ask for; I was in a bad way generally. I knew also that I was overworked, and sometimes felt that, perhaps, I might never be able to regulate work in my pulpit again."

"You felt differently, then, during the time you were praying for health than before?"
"Yes, I knew I was in the very presence of God, and could almost see and feel His personality. I cried aloud to Him and was rewarded with His companionship. I cannot tell you how I felt. It was a communion never granted me before, and one, I feel certain, that I shall never again experience. I had a great load upon my mind, for it would have been the greatest sacrifice of my life had I been compelled to give up my work for a year, as the physicians advised."

"How soon after your prayer to God did you realize that you had been answered?"
"Almost immediately. I have been able to work right along, with the exception of a short time when I was at Bay View. I took a rest there in the summer and spent my days in rowing and praying to God. While I have no regular charge now I fill the pulpit of some brother nearly every Sunday, and have other labors in addition. I do not say that I am not better, but I cannot say that I am not better."

"Have you any idea, Doctor, what might have been the result had you depended upon ordinary physical treatment and taken the year's rest the physicians recommended?"
"I would simply have lost a year's work, and probably have felt as well as I do now. In fact, I might not have recovered at all, though I do not assert this. But my recovery has been wonderful in this, that I did not follow the advice of my physician, and I took no medicine. My cure is the direct result of divine healing, and so I have been free to proclaim."

"It was a case parallel to those given out by the faith healers, then?"
"Not exactly. There was no shouting or anything of that sort—no exorcism of any kind. I laid my troubles at the feet of God and He relieved me of them and raised me up. God knew what I wanted and granted it. I go about my labors as usual, and I feel more favored than any one else who takes his troubles direct to God and asks to have them removed."

"Do you consider your case a remarkable one?"
"Not at all. I don't see why I should, when God stands ready to do for others what I ask Him to do for me."

THE STATE'S PROVISION FOR HER CONFEDERATE VETERANS.

The Conditions of the Bounty—How Applicants Must Proceed to Get Their Benefits—Full Text of the Law.

The following is the full text of the "Act to Provide for the Relief of Certain Soldiers and Widows of Soldiers or Sailors of the Late War between the States":
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same:
Section 1. That the following persons, soldiers and sailors, now citizens of South Carolina, who were in the service of the State or of the Confederate States in the late war between the States, shall be entitled to receive from the Treasurer of the State a monthly payment of five dollars, to be paid in the manner and on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.
Section 2. In order to obtain the benefit of this Act such soldier or sailor must show, first, that he was a bona fide soldier or sailor in the service of the State of South Carolina or of the Confederate States in the War between the States; and second, that while in such service he lost a leg or arm, or received any wound causing a permanent disability incapacitating him from "earning a livelihood," third, that neither himself nor his wife is the owner of property exceeding in value five hundred dollars as assessed for taxation; fourth, that he is not receiving an income exceeding the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars per annum.
Application in writing, addressed to the Comptroller General of the State, setting forth in detail the nature of the disability wound, the company and regiment and battalion in which he served, and the time and place of receiving the wound, and showing that neither himself nor his wife is the owner of property, as heretofore specified, and that he is not in receipt of income as heretofore specified. Such application shall be verified by the oath of the applicant, made before any officer in the State authorized to administer oaths, and shall be accompanied by the affidavit of one or more credible witnesses, stating that they know the applicant was a soldier or sailor, and believe the allegations made in the application to be true.

Section 3. Such application shall be verified by a certificate of the Auditor of the county in which the applicant resides, showing that the statements made as to property appear to be true from the lists of property as assessed for taxation, and it shall be the duty of the Auditor to furnish such certificate, if he shall so find the facts, without fee or charge, and to file the same with the Comptroller General of the State, and to file the same with the Auditor of the county in which the applicant resides, showing that the statements made as to property appear to be true from the lists of property as assessed for taxation, and it shall be the duty of the Auditor to furnish such certificate, if he shall so find the facts, without fee or charge, and to file the same with the Comptroller General of the State, and to file the same with the Auditor of the county in which the applicant resides, showing that the statements made as to property appear to be true from the lists of property as assessed 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